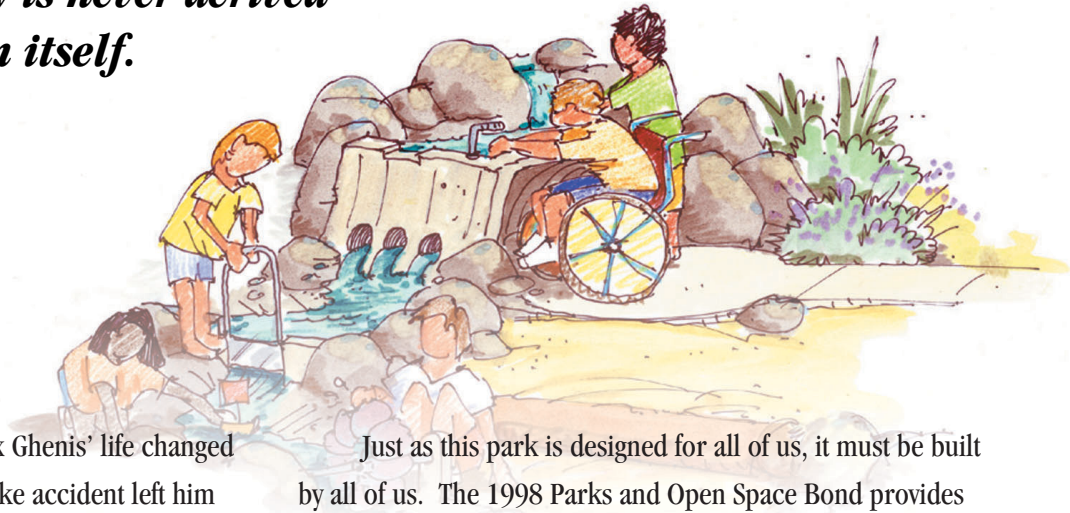


***To give, to commit to something beyond ourselves, is to free us from great sorrows ... as the greatest recovery is never derived from the source of pain itself.***



On July 4, 2004, 16-year-old Alex Ghenis' life changed forever. On this day, a tragic bike accident left him paralyzed from the chest down, a C5 quadriplegic. Alex had the choice to remain trapped in a cycle of despair or to heal through involvement and empowerment. Being a strong and independent young man, he has thankfully chosen the latter course. As part of his healing process, Alex has chosen to help the City of Eugene and Eugene Rotary Club build a very special playground at Skinner Butte Park.

It's called RiverPlay and it will be no ordinary playground. It will be the largest, most accessible ever built in this area, a place where children of all abilities can play together as equals. Through a unique balance of accessibility and complexity, these play areas will engage able-bodied children, while others, like Alex, can reclaim their independence, identity and childhood. Creating this inspired environment will benefit our community in countless ways for generations to come.

Just as this park is designed for all of us, it must be built by all of us. The 1998 Parks and Open Space Bond provides funding only for the infrastructure of this grand vision. The destiny of this haven will be determined by your generosity.

Please join Alex in building RiverPlay one brick at a time by purchasing a personalized brick for the entrance of the playground. For a tax deductible donation of \$100, you can honor a loved one and help support Alex in his recovery. For every brick sold, 10% will be returned to the Alex Ghenis Fund, sponsored by the Lane County Medical Society to support his medical expenses.

Please fill out the donation form on the reverse side and buy your engraved Discovery Brick today! Do it for RiverPlay. Do it for Alex.

*"Despite a world that shouts "YOU CAN'T", I am determined to build back my life, bit by bit. All of you who are physically challenged, join me in not giving up! Building RiverPlay Park, brick by brick, tells us that we can have hope, have fun, and participate in life. Here, we belong. Here, we matter."*  
Alex Ghenis, age 16



## Discover Adventure at Riverplay Playground!

**Pioneer Village** – Between the two buttes and along Old Willamette Street is a representation of Eugene in its early days including an old mill, general store, school house, hotel, and other play structures.

**Kalapuya Village** – Nestled among large trees near the picnic area, the Kalapuya Village invites children to explore the life of the earliest known inhabitants in our area with a summer dwelling, long house story telling shelter, stone bowls, and replica canoe.

**Willamette River** – Originating from a kid-activated rain circle, the river provides hands-on sand and water play along its course and introduces children to the native plants, insects and fish in and around Eugene's rivers and wetlands.

**Skinner Butte** – A play replica of Skinner Butte is the core of this playground, satisfying children’s seemingly instinctual desire to climb. They ascend climbing columns, net climbers, and walls and then descend down giant slides to begin again. This amazing play structure is accessible at its higher levels with a pedestrian bridge and is packed with play elements designed for exploration.

**Ancient History Sand Dig** – What better way to learn about the history of this area than to discover it yourself? In a sand riverbed at the base of the Skinner Butte play area, children dig and discover “artifacts” that reveal physical evidence of Eugene’s history from dinosaurs through pioneer settlements.

For more detailed information about the project  
and accessibility, visit  
**[www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/RiverPlay](http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/RiverPlay)**



# Skinner Butte Park Brick Donation Form

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work): \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Certificate Requested? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Inscription Details (maximum 2 lines, 12 characters per line):

[illegible]

May we list your name on our project website? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Donations are tax deductible.**

Credit my donation to: the Alex Ghenis medical fund

Make checks payable to:  
City of Eugene

*Visa & Mastercard Accepted!*



Mail completed form and donation to:  
Carrie Peterson  
Parks and Open Space Planning  
1820 Roosevelt Blvd.  
Eugene, OR 97402